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From : "Nelson, Steven"

To : "Cathy Early"

Subject : Concerns

Below are the thoughts of Todd and I about WIU.

As fiduciaries of WIU, we have grave concerns about the immediate future and distant future of WIU.

The morale of the faculty, staff, and Macomb community is greatly affected by not only the furlough days, but the layoffs, terminations, and retirements.

The Freshman enrollment is down by 20% and the overall enrollment is down by 9%. There is some believe that enrollment could go as low as 8,000 students. We do not believe that overall enrollment will improve significantly over the next couple of years. We do not believe there will be a quick turnaround as some seem to believe. In all probability, this is a pipe dream.

In our opinion, ethnicity of our university has become an issue that no one seems to want to talk about. This does not mean that we are playing the race card, but we do believe that it has an impact on enrollment.

This year we will consume the surplus of \$9,000,000 with next year's projected deficit to be \$17,000,000. This in our mind is unacceptable.

With 2018 being an election year, there is a distinct possibility that higher education will not have a 2018-2019 budget until after the November election. We may be out of money by then.

We are running out of time. Serious decisions need to be made now. Some would feel that these decisions should have been made some time ago.

We believe that we need outside assistance to help us in these troubling times. We believe that securing a consultant now in order to look at our given situation and render some thoughts on how to proceed, rather than talking about it at the December or March board meeting, which we believe is too late. We wholeheartedly support a meeting before the December board meeting to discuss this.

This decision does require a special meeting.

We also believe that at this meeting we need to discuss succession for our administration, especially the cabinet.

We believe that we need to retain a consultant so that the process can begin to steady this ship that in our minds seems to be afloat.